

# OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2003/08/08 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100030040-1

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CLASSIFICATION

**CIA/OCI/WHIZ 740315**

DATE-TIME GROUP

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

**CIA/HSS**

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMIS.  
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER FOR MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION CIA  
REP. TREASURY DEPT//INFO MR JOHN YEO.

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: 15 MAR 74

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SUBJECT: IRAQ: KURDISH SITUATION

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN THE KURDS UNTIL MARCH 22 TO JOIN THE NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT IN BAGHDAD OR PRESUMABLY THE KDP WILL EITHER BE OUTLAWED OR A GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PSEUDO-KURDISH PARTY MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNMENT AS REPRESENTING THE KURDS. SADDAM HUSAYN AL-TIKRITI, BAATH PARTY STRONGMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE IRAQI REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL, WHO HAS VIRTUALLY BECOME THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF IRAQ, ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 12 THAT THE KURDISH DEMOCRATIC PARTY WOULD HAVE 15 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW KURDISH AUTONOMY LAW TO JOIN THE NATIONAL FRONT GOVERNMENT OR PRESUMABLY LOSE THEIR PREFERENTIAL STATUS. TIKRITI'S ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO WARNED THE KURDS THAT ANY ACT "VIOLATING

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SECURITY AND THE LAW WOULD INVALIDATE THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO GRANT THE KURDS SELF-RULE.

DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S WARNING, INTERMITTENT FIGHTING PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE, AND MAY EVEN GROW IN INTENSITY UNTIL A FIRM AGREEMENT IS REACHED BETWEEN BARZANI AND THE BAAHIST REGIME IN BAGHDAD. IN FACT, AS OF MARCH 14, THE TEMPO OF FIGHTING AND MILITARY PREPARATIONS APPEARED TO HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED.

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REPORTS OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE FAR NORTH ARE BEING RECEIVED FROM TURKISH PRESS SOURCES, BUT THESE REPORTS REMAIN UNCONFIRMED. THE ALLEGED FIGHTING IS NEAR THE TURKISH BORDER, HOWEVER, AND THE REPORTS, ALTHOUGH POSSIBLY EXAGGERATED, CERTAINLY SOUND PLAUSIBLE. DISPATCHES FROM TURKISH CORRESPONDENTS IN THE

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VICINITY OF BORDER, CLAIM THE KURDISH MILITIA LAUNCHED A SURPRISE ATTACK AGAINST GOVERNMENT FORCES ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND ARE NOW LARGELY IN CONTROL OF THE ENTIRE 207-MILE BORDER. OF COURSE, MOST OF THE BORDER IS MOUNTAINOUS AND NORMALLY UNDER DE FACTO KURDISH CONTROL. THE ONLY ROAD CROSSING INTO TURKEY IS AN UNSURFACED ROAD AT THE WESTERN END OF THE BORDER. THIS REPORTEDLY IS UNDER KURDISH CONTROL. IN ADDITION, THE KURDS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE SEIZED SEVERAL ARMY GARRISONS ALONG THE BORDER.

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